

What the ref said. . .

AN interesting article appeared in this month's Rothmans Isthmian League bulletin concerning Wycombe Wanderers F.A. Cup game against Peterborough. Leicester referee John Hunting was in charge of that game and had this to say about the match:

Although Wycombe were beaten 3-1, I admired their general standard of play, and was completely amazed at the level of sportsmanship which they had achieved.

It made such a refreshing change from the hurly-burly of the Football League where you find that 50 per cent of your decisions are questioned, and you are continually trying to spot unfair practices being tried behind your back.

'Peterborough, by normal

League standards, were a well-behaved and sporting side, but they still tended to bicker about decisions. There was nothing like this from Wycombe. Every decision against them was accepted without a whisper. Only once in the 90 minutes did I have to penalise Wycombe for anything like a serious foul, and on that occasion the offending player ran straight over to me to apologise, and also apologised (genuinely) to the chap he had brought down.

'If this is what sponsored league football can achieve then I am all for it. I gather that this sporting approach is common to all teams in the competition. From a refereeing point of view, I can only say how lucky the regular Rothmans Isthmian referees are — they must really enjoy their matches.'

Mr. Hunting is a frequent lecturer at universities, schools and Referees' Societies in Leicestershire.